

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A toner ~~cartridge~~ container comprising:  
a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and  
a receptacle holding member configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle,  
wherein  
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to  
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holding member, and  
the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section having an insertion  
passage configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an  
image forming apparatus, the receptacle holding member configured to be fixed to the image  
forming apparatus, the insertion passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of  
a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is  
configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holding member to the toner replenishing  
unit using the pipe member.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1,  
wherein the receptacle holding member has an engaging section having a plurality of  
positioning-pin receiving openings configured to engage with a plurality of positioning-pins  
of the image forming apparatus that stick out along the direction parallel to the direction of  
the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the plurality of positioning-  
pin receiving openings are disposed at positions shifted from a center of the longitudinal axis  
of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle holding member has an engaging section having a protruding section configured to engage with a recessed section of the image forming apparatus that is recessed along the direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the protruding section is arranged at a position shifted from a center of a circumference of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, wherein  
the receptacle holding member includes a toner storage section configured to store the toner before the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holding member, and  
the insertion passage is connected to the toner storage section.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, wherein the toner receptacle holding member rotatably holds the toner receptacle.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 4, further comprising:  
a connecting passage that connects the insertion passage and the toner storage section of the receptacle holding member,  
wherein the insertion passage, the connecting passage, and the toner storage section are positioned in a line in this order in a direction orthogonal to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~eartridge~~ container according to claim 6, wherein the connecting passage is provided such that it extends straightly in the direction orthogonal to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~eartridge~~ container according to claim 7, wherein the connecting passage has a taper that tapers from the toner storage section to the insertion passage.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~eartridge~~ container according to claim 6, further comprising:

a shutter member that closes an opening on the side of the insertion passage of the connecting passage, the shutter member being slidable between a first position that closes the opening and a second position that opens the opening.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~eartridge~~ container according to claim 9, further comprising:

a sealing member that seals a gap between the pipe insertion section and the shutter member in the insertion passage, the sealing member being fixed to an inner wall of the insertion passage of the pipe insertion section.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~eartridge~~ container according to claim 10, wherein said sealing member is a first sealing member, said toner ~~eartridge~~ container further comprising:

a second sealing member on an opposite side of the connecting passage as said first sealing member.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 11, wherein the shutter member has a diameter which is equal to a diameter of the pipe member.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, further comprising:

the toner which is accommodated in the toner receptacle.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 13, wherein the toner is a refilled toner that is refilled into the toner receptacle after the toner receptacle becomes empty upon using the toner in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 13 wherein the receptacle holding member comprises:

a projection having a shape which indicates a color of the toner in the toner receptacle.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, wherein a connecting passage connects the insertion passage and a toner storage section in the receptacle holding member, wherein the toner is sent from the cylindrical toner receptacle to the toner storage section of the receptacle holding member through the toner discharging path, then the toner drops to the connecting passage, flows into the pipe member through the

connecting passage to be discharged out of the receptacle holding member, and an airtightness between the insertion passage on a downstream side in a direction of transportation of toner from the connecting passage and the pipe member inserted into the insertion passage is superior than an airtightness between the toner receptacle on an upstream side in the direction of transportation of toner from the connecting passage and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, further comprising:

a porous sealing member made of a porous material provided between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member; and

a non-porous sealing member made of a non-porous material provided between the insertion passage and a position at which the pipe member is received,

wherein an airtightness between the insertion passage and the pipe member is superior to an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 16, wherein the receptacle holding member includes:

an engaging section configured to engage with the toner receptacle; and

the pipe insertion section, which is configured to fit to the engaging section,

wherein an airtightness between the engaging section and the pipe insertion section is superior to an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 18, further comprising:

a porous sealing member made of a porous material provided between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member; and

a non-porous sealing member made of a non-porous material provided between the engaging section and the pipe insertion section, and therefore, an airtightness between the engaging section and the pipe insertion section is superior to an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 17, wherein the porous sealing member is made of an elastic material, and the toner receptacle engaged with the receptacle holding member jams in the porous sealing member.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a toner image forming unit configured to form a toner image on a recording medium;

a toner replenishing unit including a pipe member;

a toner ~~cartridge~~ container that accommodates toner to be supplied to the toner image forming unit and is detachable from the image forming apparatus; and

a suction unit that sucks the toner in the toner ~~cartridge~~ container and carries the toner to the toner image forming unit, wherein

the toner ~~cartridge~~ container includes

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior, and

a receptacle holding member configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein

the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharge path configured to discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holding member, and

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section having an insertion passage configured to receive the pipe member, the receptacle holding member configured to be fixed to the image forming apparatus, and the insertion passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein

the suction unit sucks the toner in the receptacle holding member through the pipe member inserted into the insertion passage, and

the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect an interior of the receptacle holding member to the toner replenishing unit.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein:

the receptacle holding member has an engaging section having a plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings configured to engage with a plurality of positioning-pins of the image forming apparatus that stick out along the direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings are disposed at positions shifted from a center of a circumference of the cylindrical toner receptacle,

the receptacle holding member includes a toner storage section in which the toner is stored before being discharged out of the receptacle holding member, and

the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, and is connected to the toner storage section,

and while mounting the toner ~~eartridge~~ container on to the image forming apparatus, the engaging section of the receptacle holding member is engaged with the plurality of positioning-pins before the pipe member is inserted into the insertion passage.

Claims 23-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) A method of recycling a toner ~~eartridge~~ container including a toner receptacle that accommodates toner and includes a toner discharging path through which the toner is discharged out of the toner receptacle, and a receptacle holding member holding the toner receptacle, wherein the toner is sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member through the toner discharging path, the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holding member and then the toner is refilled in the toner receptacle, wherein

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section having an insertion passage configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus configured to be fixed to the image forming apparatus, and is formed such that the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to a direction of longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect a space of the toner receptacle in which the toner is stored and the toner replenishing unit, the method comprising:



removing the toner receptacle from the receptacle holding member using a special purpose tool to expose the discharging path;

refilling the toner receptacle with toner through the toner discharging path of the toner receptacle after removing the toner receptacle; and

setting the toner receptacle on the receptacle holding member upon refilling.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A method of recycling a toner ~~eartridge~~ container including a toner receptacle that accommodates toner and includes a toner discharging path through which the toner is discharged out of the toner receptacle, and a receptacle holding member holding the toner receptacle, wherein the toner is sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member through the toner discharging path, after the toner in the toner receptacle is sent to the receptacle holding member from the path, the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holding member and then the toner is refilled in the toner receptacle, wherein

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section having an insertion passage configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus configured to be fixed to the image forming apparatus, and is formed such that the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to a direction of longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect a space of the toner receptacle in which the toner is stored and the toner replenishing unit, the method comprising:

creating a hole in the toner receptacle for refilling the toner,  
refilling the toner in the toner receptacle through the hole;  
closing the hole.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises boring the hole.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating a hole on the bottom surface of the rear end of the toner receptacle.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating a hole on the bottom surface of the rear end of the toner receptacle.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating the hole on the peripheral surface of the toner receptacle.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating the hole on the peripheral surface of the toner receptacle.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising:  
closing the hole which has been created by welding a resin material around the periphery of the hole.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:  
closing the hole which has been created by welding a resin material around periphery of the hole.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

closing the hole which has been created by placing a sealing film over the hole.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

closing the hole which has been created by placing a sealing film over the hole.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
peeling the sealing film from the hole.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:  
peeling the sealing film from the hole.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 1, wherein:

the toner discharging path includes a cylindrical portion whose diameter is smaller than a diameter of a main body of the toner receptacle.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 38, further comprising:

a gear protruding through an outer surface of the cylindrical portion, a rotation of the gear causing toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged from the interior of the cylindrical toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 39, wherein the cylindrical toner receptacle comprises:

a protrusion in a form of a screw which protrudes from an outer side towards an inner side of the cylindrical toner receptacle, and the rotation of the gear causing toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged due to a rotation of the cylindrical toner receptacle and the protrusion thereof.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended) The toner ~~cartridge~~ container according to claim 5, wherein an axis of rotation of the toner receptacle extends along a direction parallel to a direction of the insertion passage.

42. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle holding member comprises:

a projection at an outer circumference of the receptacle holding member at a cylindrical portion of the receptacle holding member having a largest diameter, the projection extending outward from the receptacle holding member and along a direction parallel to a length of the cylindrical toner receptacle, the projection configured to indicate a color of toner corresponding to the toner container.

43. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 42, wherein the receptacle holding member further comprises:

a cylindrical portion having a diameter smaller than the largest diameter under which is the pipe insertion section.

44. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 42, further comprising:

a gear disposed inside the receptacle holding member, the gear having a diameter which is less than said largest diameter.

45. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 44, wherein:  
rotation of the gear causes toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged to the receptacle holding member.

46. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 45, wherein:  
rotation of the gear causes toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged to the receptacle holding member by causing rotation of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

47. (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 39, further comprising:

a protrusion at said other surface of the cylindrical portion configured to indicate a color of toner within the toner container.